

§ 960.209

the approximate date of occupancy insofar as that date can be reasonably determined.

[53 FR 1179, Jan. 15, 1988 and 53 FR 6601, Mar. 2, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 36656, July 18, 1994; 61 FR 9048, Mar. 6, 1996. Redesignated at 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000, § 960.208 was removed and § 960.207 was redesignated as the new § 960.208, effective Apr. 28, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 960.208 Rent.

The amount of rent payable by the tenant to the PHA shall be the Tenant Rent, as defined in 24 CFR part 5, subpart F.

[61 FR 54504, Oct. 18, 1996]

§ 960.209 Reexamination of family income and composition.

(a) *Regular reexaminations.* The PHA must reexamine the income and composition of all tenant families at least once every 12 months and determine whether the family's unit size is still appropriate. After consultation with the family and upon verification of the information, the PHA must make appropriate adjustments in the Total Tenant Payment and Tenant Rent in accordance with part 913 of this chapter. At the time of the annual reexamination of family income and composition, the PHA must require the family to disclose and verify Social Security Numbers, as provided by part 5, subpart B, of this title. For requirements regarding the signing and submitting of consent forms by families for the obtaining of wage and claim information from State Wage Information Collection Agencies, see part 5, subpart B, of this title. At the first regular reexamination after June 19, 1995, the PHA shall follow the requirements of 24 CFR part 5 concerning obtaining and processing information on the citizenship or eligible immigration status of all family members. Thereafter, at each regular reexamination, the PHA shall follow the requirements of 24 CFR part 5 concerning verification of the immigration status of any new family member.

(b) *Interim reexaminations.* The family must comply with provisions in its lease regarding interim reporting of changes in income. If the PHA receives

24 CFR Ch. IX (4-1-00 Edition)

information concerning a change in the Family's income or other circumstances between regularly scheduled reexaminations, the PHA must consult with the family and make any adjustments determined to be appropriate. Any change in the family's income or other circumstances that results in adjustment in the Total Tenant Payment or Tenant Rent must be verified. See part 5, subpart B, of this title for the requirements for the disclosure and verification of Social Security Numbers at interim reexaminations involving new family members. For requirements regarding the signing and submitting of consent forms by families for the obtaining of wage and claim information from State Wage Information Collection Agencies, see part 5, subpart B, of this title. At any interim reexamination after June 19, 1995 when there is a new family member, the PHA shall follow the requirements of 24 CFR part 5 concerning obtaining and processing information on the citizenship or eligible immigration status of the new family member.

(c) *Termination.* For provisions requiring termination of participation for failure to establish citizenship or eligible immigration status, see 24 CFR part 5 for provisions concerning assistance to certain mixed families (families whose members include those with citizenship and eligible immigration status and those without eligible immigration status) in lieu of termination of assistance.

[56 FR 7545, Feb. 22, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 14861, Mar. 20, 1995; 61 FR 11119, Mar. 18, 1996; 61 FR 13627, Mar. 27, 1996]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000, § 960.209 was removed, effective Apr. 28, 2000.

§ 960.210 Restriction on eviction of families based upon income.

No PHA shall commence eviction proceedings, or refuse to renew a lease, based on the income of the tenant family unless: (a) It has identified, for possible rental by the family, a unit of decent, safe, and sanitary housing of suitable size available at a rent not exceeding the Tenant Rent as defined and calculated in accordance with part 913 of

this chapter, or (b) it is required to do so by local law.

[49 FR 21492, May 21, 1984]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000, § 960.210 was removed, effective Apr. 28, 2000.

Subpart C—Rent and Reexamination

SOURCE: 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 16726, Mar. 29, 2000, subpart C to part 960 was added, effective Apr. 28, 2000.

§ 960.253 Choice of rent.

(a) *Rent options.* (1) *Annual choice by family.* Once a year, the PHA must give each family the opportunity to choose between the two methods for determining the amount of tenant rent payable monthly by the family. The family may choose to pay as tenant rent either a flat rent as determined in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, or an income-based rent as determined in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section. Except for financial hardship cases as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the family may not be offered this choice more than once a year.

(2) *Relation to minimum rent.* Regardless of whether the family chooses to pay a flat rent or income-based rent, the family must pay at least the minimum rent as determined in accordance with § 5.630 of this title.

(b) *Flat rent.* (1) The flat rent is based on the market rent charged for comparable units in the private unassisted rental market. It is equal to the estimated rent for which the PHA could promptly lease the public housing unit after preparation for occupancy.

(2) The PHA must use a reasonable method to determine the flat rent for a unit. To determine the flat rent, the PHA must consider:

(i) The location, quality, size, unit type and age of the unit; and

(ii) Any amenities, housing services, maintenance and utilities provided by the PHA.

(3) The flat rent is designed to encourage self-sufficiency and to avoid creating disincentives for continued

residency by families who are attempting to become economically self-sufficient.

(4) If the family chooses to pay a flat rent, the PHA does not pay any utility reimbursement.

(5) The PHA must maintain records that document the method used to determine flat rents, and also show how flat rents are determined by the PHA in accordance with this method, and document flat rents offered to families under this method.

(c) *Income-based rent.* (1) An income-based rent is a tenant rent that is based on the family's income and the PHA's rent policies for determination of such rents.

(2) The PHA rent policies may specify that the PHA will use percentage of family income or some other reasonable system to determine income-based rents. The PHA rent policies may provide for depositing a portion of tenant rent in an escrow or savings account, for imposing a ceiling on tenant rents, for adoption of permissive income deductions (see § 5.611(b) of this title), or for another reasonable system to determining the amount of income-based tenant rent.

(3) The income-based tenant rent must not exceed the total tenant payment (§ 5.628 of this title) for the family minus any applicable utility allowance for tenant-paid utilities. If the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the PHA shall pay such excess amount (the utility reimbursement) either to the family or directly to the utility supplier to pay the utility bill on behalf of the family. If the PHA elects to pay the utility supplier, the PHA must notify the family of the amount of utility reimbursement paid to the utility supplier.

(d) *Ceiling rent.* Instead of using flat rents, a PHA may retain ceiling rents that were authorized and established before October 1, 1999, for a period of three years from October 1, 1999. After this three year period, the PHA must adjust such ceiling rents to the level required for flat rents under this section; however, ceiling rents are subject to paragraph (a) of this section, the annual reexamination requirements, and the limitation that the tenant rent